

SN. 09/599,823

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IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming system which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said image forming system comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for inputting information relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

destination device selecting mode designating means for designating one of an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said plurality of image forming devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for arbitrarily selecting an image forming device &s said destination device; and

display control means for controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information.

2. (*Original*) An image forming device having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being capable of selecting other image forming devices connected to said image forming device through communication media, as a destination device for an inputted image, said image forming device comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to

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the image formation;

function setting input means for performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information indicating functions relating to the image formation from said image forming device and said other image forming devices;

mode designating means for designating a destination device selecting mode between an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination device image forming device from said image forming device and said other image forming devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for arbitrarily selecting said destination device image forming device; and

display control means for controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information.

3. *(Original)* A function setting method of setting functions of an image forming system including a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being connected to one another through communication media, said image forming system being capable of selecting an image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for forming an image inputted from one of said image forming devices, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means;

designating one of an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination device image forming device among said image output devices and an individual destination device selecting mode for arbitrarily selecting an image forming device as said destination device;

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controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information; and

performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen.

4. (*Currently Amended*) A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said plurality of image forming devices;

a selecting mode designating module for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said plurality of image forming devices or an individual destination device selecting mode for selecting an image forming device as said destination device; and

a display control module for controlling display of information about the functions relating to the image formation on said information input screen according to the designated destination device selecting mode and the acquired function information.

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5. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming system which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said image forming system comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for inputting information relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

selecting mode designating means for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said image forming devices; and

control means for selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device according to the acquired function information and displaying information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

6. (*Original*) An image forming device having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being capable of selecting other image forming devices connected to said image forming device through communication media, as a destination device for an inputted image, said image forming device comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

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function information acquiring means for acquiring function information indicating functions relating to the image formation from said image forming device and said other image forming devices;

mode designating means for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device from said image forming device and said other image forming devices; and

control means for selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device according to the acquired function information and displaying information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

7. *(Original)* A function setting method of setting functions of an image forming system including a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being connected to one another through communication media, said image forming system being capable of selecting an image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for forming an image inputted from one of said image forming devices, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means, and setting said functions;

designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices; and

selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device according to the acquired function information, and controlling said display means in such a manner as to display information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

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8. *(Currently Amended)* A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said plurality of image forming devices;

a mode designating module for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said plurality of image forming devices;

a destination device selecting module for selecting an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on said information input screen, as said destination device, according to the acquired function information if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated; and

a display control module for displaying information about the selected image forming device on said information input screen.

9. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming system which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said plurality of image forming devices as a

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destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said image forming system comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for inputting information relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

selecting mode designating means for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said image forming devices; and

control means for sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information and displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

10. (*Original*) An image forming device having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being capable of selecting other image forming devices connected to said image forming device through communication media, as a destination device for an inputted image, said image forming device comprising:

display means for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation;

function setting input means for performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

function information acquiring means for acquiring function information indicating functions relating to the image formation from said image forming device and said other image forming devices;

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mode designating means for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device from said image forming device and said other image forming devices; and

control means for sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information and

displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

11. (*Original*) A function setting method of setting functions of an image forming system including a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and being connected to one another through communication media, said image forming system being capable of selecting an image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices as a destination device for forming an image inputted from one of said image forming devices, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring function information indicating a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

displaying an information input screen for setting the functions on display means;

performing an inputting operation relating setting of the functions on said information input screen;

designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting a destination image forming device from said plurality of image forming devices; and

sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information and displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.



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12. *(Currently Amended)* A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for setting functions on an image forming system, which ~~has a plurality of functions relating to image formation and~~ includes a plurality of image forming devices having a plurality of functions relating to image formation and connected through communication media, and wherein an image forming device is selected from said image forming devices as a destination device for formation of an image inputted from one of said plurality of image forming devices, said program comprising:

- a function setting input module for displaying an information input screen for setting functions relating to the image formation on display means and performing an inputting operation relating to setting of the functions on said information input screen;

- a function information acquiring module for acquiring function information representing a plurality of functions relating to the image formation from said image forming devices;

- a selecting mode designating module for designating an automatic destination device selecting mode for automatically selecting an image forming device as a destination device among said image forming devices; and

- a prospective destination device sampling module for sampling an image forming device, which is able to execute a function currently set on said information input screen, as a prospective destination device according to the acquired function information, if said automatic destination device selecting mode is designated; and

- a display control module for displaying information about functions relating to the sampled image forming device on said information input screen.

13. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus for transmitting image data to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses comprising:

- selecting means having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the

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operator; and

display control means for controlling a display means,

wherein in said first mode, said display control means controls said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by a currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is displayed on a screen for setting functions, while at least one function that is not executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and in said second mode, said display control means controls said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by any of a plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is displayed on said screen, while at least one function that is not executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses.

14. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses are ones of said plurality of image forming apparatuses that can execute at least one set function.

15. *(Currently Amended)* An apparatus for transmitting image data to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses comprising:

selecting means having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator; and

display control means for controlling a display means,

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wherein in said second mode, said selecting means is responsive to an instruction for setting a function, for again selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses that can execute the function, and said display control means controls said display means to display a screen containing information indicative of the again selected image forming apparatus.

16. (New) An image data transmitting method of transmitting image data from an apparatus to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said apparatus having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator, said method comprising the steps of:

controlling a display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by a currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is displayed on a screen for setting functions, while at least one function that is not executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, in said first mode; and

controlling said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by any of a plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is displayed on said screen, while at least one function that is not executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses, in said second mode.

17. (New) An image data transmitting method according to claim 16, wherein said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses are ones of said plurality of image forming

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apparatuses that can execute at least one set function.

18. (New) A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for transmitting image data from an apparatus to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said program comprising:

a selecting module having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator; and

a display control module for controlling a display means,

wherein in said first mode, said display control module controls said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by a currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is displayed on a screen for setting functions, while at least one function that is not executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by said currently selected one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and in said second mode, said display control module controls said display means in a manner such that at least one function that is executable by any of a plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is displayed on said screen, while at least one function that is not executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses is not displayed on said screen or displayed on said screen in a manner that it can be recognized by the operator as not being executable by any of said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses.

19. (New) A storage medium according to claim 18, wherein said plurality of prospective destination image forming apparatuses are ones of said plurality of image forming apparatuses that can execute at least one set function.

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20. (New) An image data transmitting method of transmitting image data from an apparatus to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said apparatus having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting again one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses that can execute a function in response to an instruction for setting the function in said second mode; and

controlling a display means to display a screen containing information indicative of the again selected image forming apparatus.

21. (New) A storage medium that can be read by a computer containing a program for transmitting image data from an apparatus to one of a plurality of image forming apparatuses, said program comprising:

a selecting module having a first mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected in accordance with a designation of an individual image forming apparatus by an operator, and a second mode in which one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses is selected without a designation for an individual image forming apparatus by the operator; and

a display control module for controlling a display means,

wherein in said second mode, said selecting module is responsive to an instruction for setting a function, for again selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses that can execute the function, and said display control module controls said display means to display a screen containing information indicative of the again selected image forming apparatus.

22. (New) An image forming system according to claim 1, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means controls the display means in such a manner as to display, on the display means, an individual destination device selecting

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screen for selecting an image forming device as the destination device among the image forming devices, whereby an image forming device is selected as the destination device according to inputting operation on the individual destination device selecting screen.

23. (New) An image forming system according to claim 1, wherein if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means finds logical sums of functions relating to the image formation of the image forming devices with reference to the acquired function information and controls the display means in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, function information relating to the functions relating to the image formation, the function information being acquired from the found logical sums.

24. (New) An image forming system according to claim 1, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means controls said display means in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, only function information representing functions relating to the image formation of the image forming device selected according to the individual destination device selecting mode with reference to the acquired function information.

25. (New) An image forming device according to claim 2, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means controls said display means in such a manner as to display an individual destination device selecting screen for selecting an image forming device as the destination device among the image forming device and the other image forming devices on the display means, whereby an image forming device is selected as the destination device according to inputting operation on the individual destination device selecting screen.

26. (New) An image forming device according to claim 2, wherein if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means finds logical sums of functions

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relating to the image formation of the image forming devices with reference to the acquired function information and controls said display means in such a manner as to display function information relating to the functions relating to the image formation, the function information being acquired from the found logical sums.

27. (New) An image forming device according to claim 2, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control means controls said display means in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, only function information representing the functions relating to the image formation of the image forming device selected according to the individual destination device selecting mode with reference to the acquired function information.

28. (New) A function setting method according to claim 3, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display means is controlled in such a manner as to display an individual destination device selecting screen for selecting an image forming device as the destination device among the image forming device on said display means, whereby an image forming device is selected as the destination device according to the inputting operation on the individual destination device selecting screen.

29. (New) A function setting method according to claim 3, wherein if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated, logical sums of functions relating to the image formation of the image forming devices are found with reference to the acquired function information and said display means is controlled in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, function information relating to the functions relating to the image formation, the function information being acquired from the found logical sums.

30. (New) A function setting method according to claim 3, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display means is controlled in such a manner as to

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display, on the information input screen, only function information representing the functions relating to the image formation of the image forming device selected according to the individual destination device selecting mode with reference to the acquired function information.

31. (New) A storage medium according to claim 4, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control module controls said display means in such a manner as to display, on said display means, an individual destination device selecting screen for selecting an image forming device as the destination device among the plurality of image forming devices, whereby an image forming device is selected as the destination device according to inputting operation on the individual destination device selecting screen.

32. (New) A storage medium according to claim 4, wherein if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control module finds logical sums of functions relating to the image formation of the image forming devices with reference to the acquired function information and controls the display means in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, function information about the functions relating to the image formation, the function information being acquired from the found logical sums.

33. (New) A storage medium according to claim 4, wherein if the individual destination device selecting mode is designated, said display control module controls said display means in such a manner as to display, on the information input screen, only function information representing functions relating to the image formation of the image forming device selected according to the individual destination device selecting mode with reference to the acquired function information.

34. (New) An image forming system according to claim 5, wherein if the automatic destination device is designated, said control means is operable whenever a function is set on the information input screen, to select an image forming device, which is able to execute the set function.



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35. (New) An image forming system according to claim 5, further comprising priority information storing means for storing priority information with respect to the image forming devices, and wherein said control means selects an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on the information input screen, according to the acquired function information with reference to the priority information if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.
36. (New) An image forming system according to claim 5, wherein the information relating to the selected image forming device includes information indicating all functions that can be executed by the selected image forming devices.
37. (New) An image forming device according to claim 6, wherein if the automatic destination device is designated, said control means is operable whenever a function is set on the information input screen, to select an image forming device, which is able to execute the set function.
38. (New) An image forming device according to claim 6, further comprising priority information storing means for storing priority information with respect to the image forming devices, and wherein said control means selects an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on the information input screen, according to the acquired priority information if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.
39. (New) An image forming device according to claim 6, wherein the information relating to the selected image forming device includes information indicating all functions that can be executed by the selected image forming device.
40. (New) A function setting method according to claim 7, wherein if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated, whenever a function is set on the information input screen,

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an image forming device, which is able to execute the set function, is selected.

41. (New) A function setting method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of storing priority information with respect to the image forming devices in storage means, and wherein an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on the information input screen, is selected according to the acquired function information if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

42. (New) A function setting method according to claim 7, wherein the information relating to the selected image forming device includes information indicating all functions that can be executed by the selected image forming device.

43. (New) A storage medium according to claim 8, wherein if the automatic destination device is designated, said destination device selecting module is operable whenever a function is set on the information input screen, to select an image forming device, which is able to execute the set function.

44. (New) A storage medium according to claim 8, wherein further comprising priority information storing means for storing priority information with respect to the image forming devices, and wherein said destination device selecting module selects an image forming device, which is able to execute a function set on the information input screen, according to the acquired function information with reference to the priority information if the automatic destination device selecting mode is designated.

45. (New) A storage medium according to claim 8, wherein the information about the selected image forming device includes information indicating all functions that can be executed by the selected image forming device.

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46. (New) An image forming system according to claim 9, wherein when the information about the functions relating to the sampled image forming device is displayed on said display means, said function setting input means makes settable only a function that can be executed by the sampled image forming device.
47. (New) An image forming device according to claim 10, wherein when the information about the functions relating to the sampled image forming device is displayed on said display means, the function setting input means makes settable only a function that can be executed by the sampled image forming device.
48. (New) A function setting method according to claim 11, wherein said step of performing the inputting operation comprises making settable only a function that can be executed by the sampled image forming device when the information about the functions relating to the sampled image forming device is displayed on said display means.
49. (New) A storage medium according to claim 12, wherein when the information about the functions relating to the sampled image forming device is displayed on said display means, said function setting input module makes settable only a function that can be executed by the sampled image forming device.